In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A separator made of elastic plastic and suitable for use in a lead storage battery, said separator consisting of sheet material with an inner region and two peripheral regions, and having ribs running in the longitudinal direction on at least one side, the ribs in the inner region being more widely spaced than those in the peripheral regions ~~region~~, characterized in that at least the first 3 ribs in the peripheral regions ~~region~~ that are adjacent to the inner region have a cross-section essentially in the form of a triangle projecting from the level of the sheet material, with the base of the triangle on the sheet material, one side of the triangle facing the inner region and the other side facing the periphery, the side facing the inner region being longer than that facing the periphery.

2. (previously presented) Separator according to Claim 1, characterized in that the side of the triangle facing the inner region is 1.5 to 15 times as long as the side facing the periphery.

3. (previously presented) Separator according to Claim 1, characterized in that the side facing the inner region encloses an angle of 5° to 40° with the base.

4. (previously presented) Separator according to Claim 1, characterized in that the side facing the inner region encloses an angle of 75° to 115° with the side facing the periphery.

5. (previously presented) Separator according to Claim 1, characterized in that the sheet material has a thickness of 0.05 to 0.35 mm.

6. (currently amended) Separator according to Claim 1, characterized in that all the ribs in the peripheral regions ~~region~~ have the same cross-section.

7. (currently amended) Separator according to Claim 1, characterized in that 3 to 30 ribs per cm are located in the peripheral regions ~~region~~.

8. (previously presented) Lead storage battery containing a plurality of electrodes arranged parallel to one another, neighboring electrodes possessing opposite polarities and the electrodes of at least one polarity each being enclosed in a separator in accordance with Claim 1 that has been folded into a sheath and joined at the edges of the peripheral regions.

9. (previously presented) Separator according to Claim 2 characterized in that the side facing the inner region encloses an angle of 5° to 40° with the base.

10. (previously presented) Separator according to Claim 2, characterized in that the side facing the inner region encloses an angle of 75° to 115° with the side facing the periphery.

11. (previously presented) Separator according to Claim 3, characterized in that the side facing the inner region encloses an angle of 75° to 115° with the side facing the periphery.

12. (previously presented) Separator according to Claim 3, characterized in that the sheet material has a thickness of 0.05 to 0.35 mm.

13. (previously presented) Separator according to Claim 4, characterized in that the sheet material has a thickness of 0.05 to 0.35 mm.

14. (currently amended) Separator according to Claim 4, characterized in that all the ribs in the peripheral regions ~~region~~ have the same cross-section.

15. (currently amended) Separator according to Claim 5, characterized in that all the ribs in the peripheral regions ~~region~~ have the same cross-section.

16. (currently amended) Separator according to Claim 5, characterized in that 3 to 30 ribs per cm are located in the peripheral regions ~~region~~.

17. (currently amended) Separator according to Claim 6, characterized in that 3 to 30 ribs per cm are located in the peripheral regions ~~region~~.

18. (previously presented) Lead storage battery containing a plurality of electrodes arranged parallel to one another, neighboring electrodes possessing opposite polarities and the electrodes of at least one polarity each being enclosed in a separator in accordance with Claim 2 that has been folded into a sheath and joined at the edges of the peripheral regions.

19. (previously presented) Lead storage battery containing a plurality of electrodes arranged parallel to one another, neighboring electrodes possessing opposite polarities and the electrodes of at least one polarity each being enclosed in a separator in accordance with Claim 7 that has been folded into a sheath and joined at the edges of the peripheral regions.